

## The Register-Guard

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### [Chamber hands out awards to businesses for community efforts](http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/sevendays/21253729-35/story.csp)

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Two tech companies, a newspaper, a food business and a construction firm were honored Tuesday night at the sixth annual Emerald Awards. The awards were created by the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce to recognize companies that contribute to the community through sustainable business practices.

Avant Assessment received the Emerald Award for Innovation. The company, which was founded in 2001, describes itself as a global leader in Web-based language assessment for education, business and government. Avant developed the technology to offer its language proficiency tests over the Internet to students of Spanish, Japanese and five other languages. It also has a public/private partnership with the University of Oregon's Center for Applied Second Language Studies.

Café Yumm! received the Emerald Award for Growth. It has been recognized by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest growing food and beverage businesses in the United States. The company, which opened its first outlet in 1997, now has a total of nine, offering organic ingredients. In recent years, Café Yumm! has begun franchising outlets, in addition to company-owned cafes. It also manufactures and sells its Yumm! Sauce, dressings and other foods.

Hamilton Construction received the Emerald Award for Environmental Values. Among other things, the 70-year-old firm has one of the largest solar arrays in the Springfield area, uses biodiesel fuel from local distributors on project sites, and uses "bubble curtains" when pile driving in water to minimize the impact of sound waves on fish. Hamilton has been recognized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for its contributions to bat, bull trout and chinook salmon habitats.

The Register-Guard received the Emerald Award for Community Caring. The newspaper, which was founded in 1867, was honored for "a long history of serving as a model citizen of the community" for its financial and employee contributions to charities. It also was cited for its innovative Volunteer of the Month and Community Leaders Together programs.

The Chamber of Commerce previously announced that software company Palo Alto Software, which moved its headquarters to Eugene in 1992, was the Business of the Year. "Palo Alto Software was named 2009 Business of the Year because of its focus on the triple bottom line of sustainability — financial, social and the environment," Chamber President Dave Hauser said.

About 250 people attended this year's awards ceremony at the Hult Center.

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